

## QUICK AS A FLASH

Splendid Night Watch and Fire Alarm System.

## INSTANTANEOUS IN ACTION

Scores of Large Concerns Using the Service Introduced by Mr. Alex. McLachlin With Satisfaction.

Some men are born great and die in shame and poverty. Others of humble birth and origin make themselves great by their own efforts. Some men are provided with every opportunity for success and fail, with all their advantages. Others, unprovided with the advantages possessed by their neighbors, will struggle bravely against every obstacle and win the success that will make them independent. Such men as the latter are of more benefit to the

part of the city, besides a very pleasant and substantial residence. The company, of which Mr. McLachlin is the head and front, has in operation in this city fifty miles of wire, of which fifteen miles are used in operating the District Telegraph branch of the business. In connection with the District lines are 240 four call boxes, 20 of which are used in calling messenger boys; baggage wagons, hacks, etc., while the remaining fifty boxes are used for return calls. All these boxes are furnished with a set of bells, so that the person using the call will immediately receive a return signal.

When Mr. McLachlin, who is considered a genius, had perfected his messenger service he set to work on a plan for a night watch and fire alarm system, which he proposed to place in the large factories, stores and mercantile houses. After months of study and experiment he has been enabled to place a system in operation that is considered by all those using it, the finest thing ever invented or thought of. The machines used are duplicating in character and capable of eight combinations. Should anything happen to one it would not interrupt the working of the system, as a combination could be quickly made that would work with satisfaction. All the machines are tested three times a day by the electrician, Mr.

Among those now using the Night Watch and Fire Alarm service are: The Gunn Folding Bed company. Grand Rapids Veneer Works. The Goshen Carpet Sweeper company. The Russell Carpet Sweeper company. Nelson, Matter & Co. The Heyman company. Grand Rapids Refrigerator company. Grand Rapids Felt Hat company. Spring & Company. The New Livingston hotel. Columbian Transportation company. H. A. Greenly. Ed L. Gill. A. N. Albee. H. Leonard's Sons & Co.

The G. R. & L. Railway company, covering all their buildings in the city. Rowson Bros. and others. Mr. McLachlin has received a great many flattering letters from his patrons in relation to the system. Excerpts from a few of them are given here. C. H. Leonard: "The system is admirable and the best that could be devised for the purpose intended."

## OUR WAY IS UPWARD

(Continued from Seventeenth Page.)

G. H. & M. G. R. & L. and C. & W. M. railroads. There is certainly a future for this territory, which is as yet chiefly devoted to raising vegetables and dairy business. Some changing of hands of property therabouts is predicted before fall. Its growth has kept pace with the rest of Grand Rapids and west side property is universally conceded to be "gilt edged." If one desires to walk to and from the business center it is the most accessible residence part of the town. The south part of the west side contains hundreds of pretty homes of the middle and working classes, and is growing with great rapidity.

Crossing the river again southeasterly is found the territory which has shown the greatest growth in ten years of any part of the city. The past year or two, since the extension of the limits a mile

If Mr. Guild and his late pioneer associates could or do look upon us in this Columbian year surely they must take pride in the development of "township 7, north of ranges 11 and 12 west," and its adjoining reality.

## PRIDE OF GRAND RAPIDS.

The Beautiful William Widdicombe Block and Residence.

The name Widdicombe is more closely allied with the growth and development of Grand Rapids than that of perhaps any other citizen of our fair city. The great Widdicombe furniture factory is known wherever civilized man rests his weary form on a luxurious bed, and learns by experience to appreciate a good thing. This mammoth factory was established and developed by the energy and genius of one man—a man highly honored in Grand Rapids for his many noble qualities—William Widdicombe. Other partners there have been—the younger brother of the senior member and the late beloved Deacon T.

taste that marks every act of his life has been shown in the selection of plans. The entire building is always filled with good tenants. The Masonic temple occupies the two upper floors, and the balance of the building, except the ground floor, is occupied by the leading professional men of the city.

## FINE PROPERTIES.

The W. S. Hull Residence and Business Block.

European travel aided materially in the selection of plans of the beautiful residence of W. S. Hull at No. 91 South College avenue. As the illustration shows, the entire exterior of the residence is original, ornamental and unhackneyed. Too many of our American people draw their ideas in building from the dwellings of their neighbors, and as a consequence fashionable residence streets in many cities show a pitiful poverty of originality. The Hull residence is situated on a most fashionable thoroughfare and is the chief ornament of the locality. The exterior of the dwelling is a fair index of the interior. Throughout the house the central idea has been the avoidance of the commonplace, and liberal wealth, exquisite taste and familiarity with the model homes of two continents have

## HEAD OF THE LIST

Elliott &amp; Co., the Monroe Street General Grocers.

## ARE POPULAR AND SUCCESSFUL

Mr. Elliott &amp; Pioneer in the Grocery Business and Resident of Grand Rapids—His Business Career.

Among the popular business men of Grand Rapids is A. J. Elliott, of the firm of Elliott & Co., the leading grocers of the city. Mr. Elliott has been in business in Grand Rapids twenty years, and knows the town and the people thoroughly. He has been in the grocery business ever since childhood and understands every detail perfectly. Eight years ago he purchased his present business from E. E. Walker, and by his careful management has brought it up to its present high standing. Know-



WIDDICOMBE BUILDING—COR. MONROE AND WATERLOO STREETS. PHOTO BY KRAMER.

world, to mankind and themselves than those who through indifference, carelessness or dissipation neglect the opportunities of life.

Alexander McLachlin is one of Grand Rapids' business men who has won such success as is rarely attained under diffi-

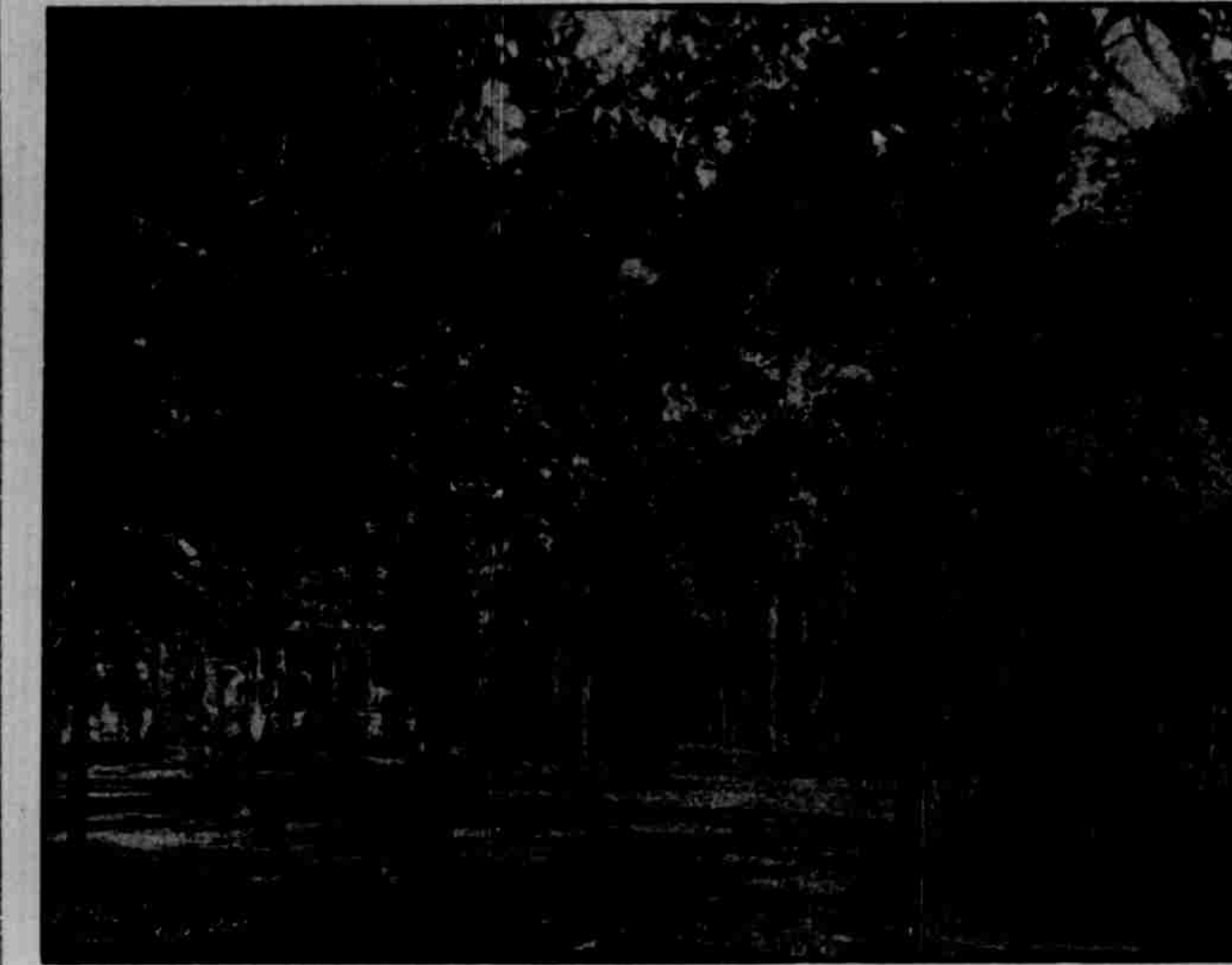


ALEX. McLACHLIN.

culties. Born in London, Ontario, July 13, 1853, of humble parentage, his only education was that received in the country schools. He removed to Grand Rapids in the spring of 1871. For sev-

George F. Carpenter, as are all the circuits at 7 and 12 a. m. and 6 p. m. Thirty-five miles of wire are used in the service, yet any break can be repaired in five or ten minutes.

One plan of operation is simple and practical. Night watch and fire alarm boxes are placed in buildings at such places as will necessitate the night watchman having under his observation every part of the building, once each hour, thus insuring a constant inspection of the building. Each hour the watchman rings the box, and notice is instantly conveyed to the central station of the company and recorded automatically. If there is any delay in the reports a messenger is sent to the place to ascertain the cause of the delay on the part of the watchman. On several occasions watchmen have been accidentally injured while on duty, and failing to report, they have been discovered by the messenger, whereas had it not been for this system they might have died for lack of medical assistance or the factory might have been consumed by fire, the watchman being unable to report it. The fire alarm service is of great value, as was shown on one occasion where an alarm was turned in from one of the factories, reported by the company direct to the central fire station, and the apparatus was on the spot before the fire alarm had struck the first round. The fire alarm boxes are placed on every floor so that the department is informed of the exact location of the fire before starting for the scene. At present thirty-eight buildings are connected with the main office by this system. In these buildings are placed 128 night watch boxes and fifty-five fire boxes. Twenty-eight watchmen are employed in these buildings. The electrical appliances in the main office consist of two 8 bar plug switch boards, twelve 150



RESIDENCE OF WILLIAM WIDDICOMBE.

PHOTO BY KRAMER.

Spring & Co.—We think it the best thing out, and it works to perfection. E. G. Studley—It is highly satisfactory in every respect and the best system yet devised.

Bissell Carpet Sweeper Company—It works admirably. It is quick in action and reliable.

W. S. Gunn Hardware Company—It is perfect in operation, and reliable. It is superior to all systems.

The New Livingston—The best thing extant in its line. It is always reliable and prompt to detect anything wrong. Goshen Carpet Sweeper company. The finest system devised. We are more than pleased with it, and think it superior to anything yet devised for factory service.

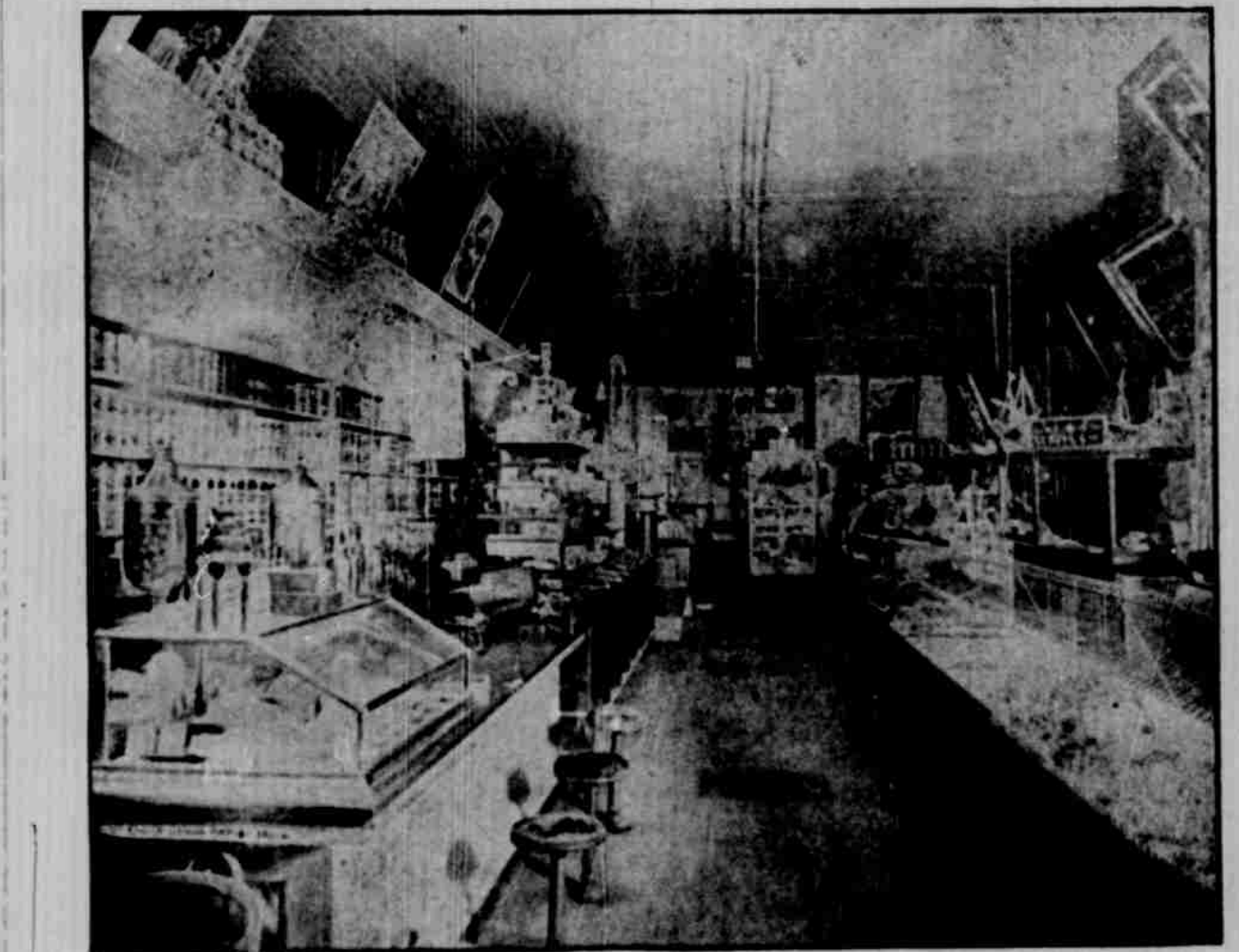
Miles of wire are being laid every week and new stations connected with the office, which is the most flattering compliment that can be paid to the system and its inventor. Although it has cost Mr. McLachlin years of toil and the outlay of a great amount of money he should be proud of the success that has crowned his efforts. One thing more. The writer of this article has paid many visits to the office of the Grand Rapids Messenger & Packet company, on Canal street, and has always been deeply interested in the electrical appliances and apparently complicated



A. J. ELLIOTT.

F. Richards—but they more than all others have borne testimony to the magnificent leadership of the founder of the company.

On this page THE HERALD takes pleasure in printing illustrations of Mr. Widdicombe's beautiful home, at No. 220 Fountain street, and the magnificent block on Monroe street erected by him a few years ago as a contribution toward the development of the bustling city in which his business life has been passed. Mr. Widdicombe's house is a most delightful one—such as a man with fine tastes and unlimited means would naturally build—but the large and spreading lawn surrounding it is far above the usual excellence of the lawns possessed by wealthy men. The picture has done far more than the writer can hope to accomplish in the way of portraying the beauties of these delightful grounds. Indeed, it speaks to the beholder of a gentle summer breeze ruffling the leaves on the grand old forest trees; of bright sunlight slanting and glistening through the boughs as they sway backward and forward under the gentle impetus of the drowsy wind; of velvety sod that has borrowed from the generous skies a color so rich and pure that it seems something beyond that of earthly turf. In the distance one sees greenwood lanes that remind him of an English gentleman's park and, for an instant, he for-



ELLIOTT &amp; COMPANY'S GROCERY—MONROE STREET.

PHOTO BY KRAMER.

get that he is little more than half a mile from the mountains of brick and stone of a great city, and almost expects to see a graceful tree spring from behind a twisted tree trunk, frightened by the proximity of the spectator, and seek a retreat in some distant forest. Also and like the writer forgets as his eyes rest on the happy representation of a more lovely scene than he is doing the most arduous work in this workaday world, grinding out copy for a newspaper, and he allows himself to fall into a golden slumber. But enough! The Widdicombe building, corner of Monroe and Waterloo streets, is an edifice that would attract attention in Chicago or New York. It stands on the most valuable land in the city, and is the best business block in Grand Rapids. Mr. Widdicombe's special success in building it and the good

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RESIDENCE OF W. S. HULL—COLLEGE AVENUE.

PHOTO BY KRAMER.

been drawn upon in carrying out the plans. The Huls are members of the most fashionable social circles of the city, and their beautiful home is constantly thronged with press.

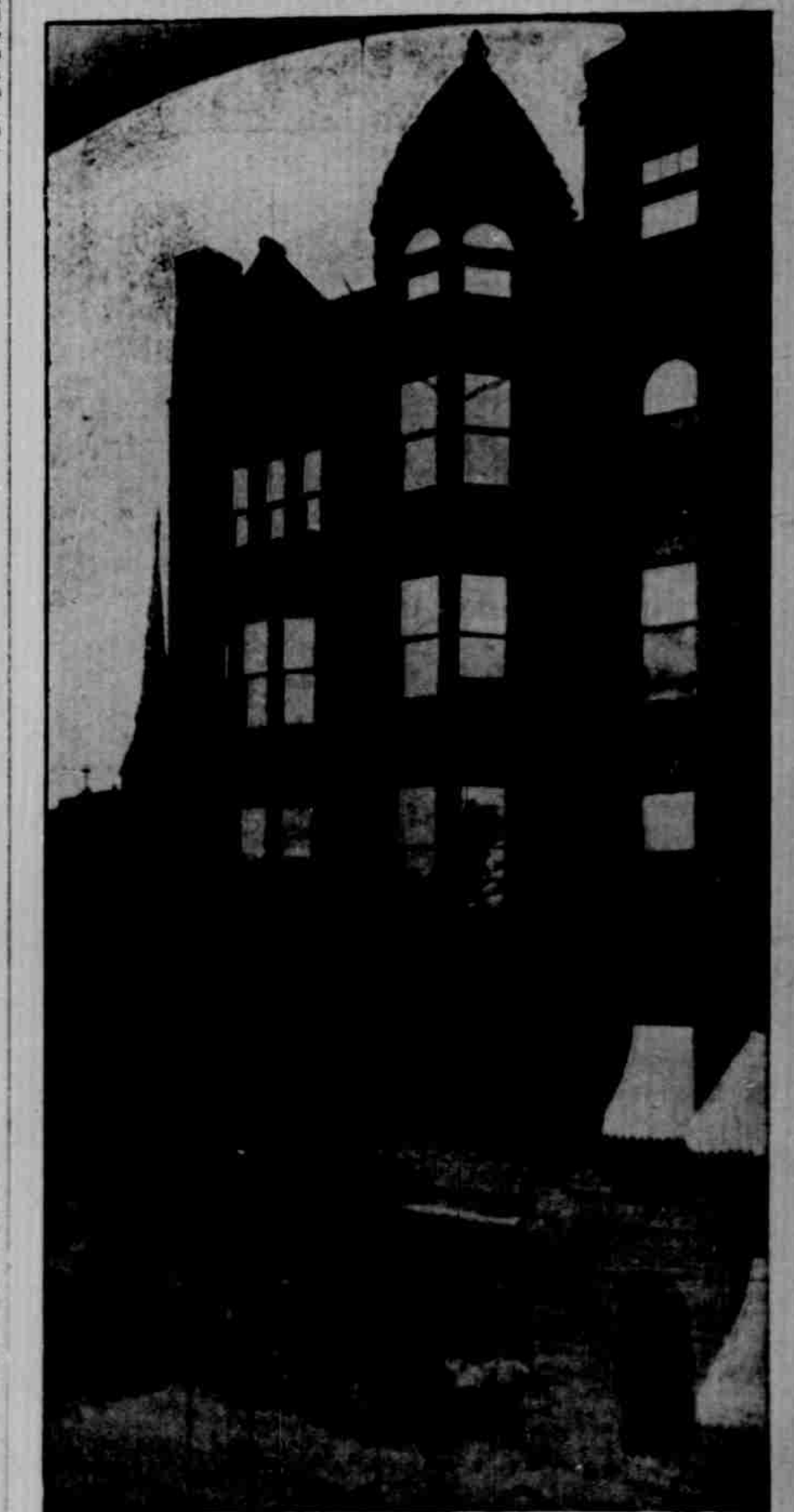
The block of Nos. 24 and 26 North Division street, also shown on this page, is one of our finest buildings, and an ornament to the city. The architect has been liberal in its ornamentation, and the result is most pleasing. The front is of fine pressed brick, and the construction is of a high order throughout. Grand Rapids is fortunate in possessing wealthy people who delight in owning such fine properties, and this has been in a great measure the secret of the successful growth of the city.

ing everybody. Mr. Elliott has come to understand the wants of his customers and never fails to please them. He is a careful buyer and always selects the best of everything in the market, and it is this fact that has been largely instrumental in securing for him the best trade in the city.

The store is always attractive with new vegetables, fruits and the best of everything in groceries. Just at present Mr. Elliott is making large purchases of fruit, and will be able to supply his thousands of customers with the best of everything for eating.

Mr. Elliott is very popular among the

(Continued on Twenty-second Page.)



THE W. S. HULL BLOCK—NORTH DIVISION STREET.

PHOTO BY KRAMER.

ARCHITECT



RESIDENCE OF W. S. HULL—COLLEGE AVENUE.

PHOTO BY KRAMER.

and home was introduced in the home of the business men in 1882, and has since been a household word. The first night watch and fire alarm system was introduced by Mr. McLachlin in 1871, and has since been a household word. The first night watch and fire alarm system was introduced by Mr. McLachlin in 1871, and has since been a household word.

that property, stores and houses for building purposes. Two generations ago, the first night watch and fire alarm system was introduced by Mr. McLachlin in 1871, and has since been a household word. The first night watch and fire alarm system was introduced by Mr. McLachlin in 1871, and has since been a household word.